

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4, 9-10 and 15-17 are canceled.

Support for each amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-14 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Dahlgren in view of Bahrman. The rejection of Claims 4 and 9-10 is obviated by cancellation of these claims. Dahlgren does not describe or suggest two features of, for example, present Claim 1. At the outset Dahlgren does not describe or suggest the feature "wherein the C3-C10-alkyleneoxy or mixtures thereof is firstly added to the $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O$ -radical" and in fact, Dahlgren "teaches away from" this feature.

Page 9, line 25 to page 10, line 4, of the present specification describes alkoxylates in which propylene oxide is first added to an alcohol resulting in an alkoxylate bearing propylene oxide groups directly attached to the alcohol moiety. Forming the alkoxylate this way, with subsequent ethoxylation, reduces the content of residual alcohol in the alkoxylates, since propylene oxide is added more uniformly to the alcohol.

Dahlgren, in contrast, first reacts alcohols with ethylene oxide, resulting in a broad distribution of reaction homologues not seen in the presently claimed mixture of, for example Claim 1, and a higher concentration of residual alcohol than that seen in, for example, present Claim 1, because ethylene oxide preferably reacts with ethoxylates and not with the starting alcohol (see Dahlgren, page 2, lines 10-12, for addition order; and, page 9, lines 25-32, of the present specification, for higher residual alcohol concentration and broader homologue distribution resulting from reacting alcohol with ethylene oxide (e.g., the method of Dahlgren)).

Further, Dahlgren does not describe or suggest the specific isomeric mixture of alcohols as found in, for example, present Claim 1. Dahlgren discloses using 2-propyl heptanol as the alcohol. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand Dahlgren to be describing a linear heptanol chain with a propyl radical in the 2 position, because this is the meaning of 2-propyl heptanol. This is not the same as the mixture of alcohols in, for example, present Claim 1. Bahrman does not remedy the deficiencies of Dahlgren.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

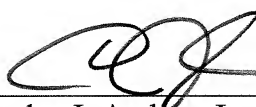
The obviousness rejection of Claims 1-14 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Gumbel in view of Bahrman is respectfully traversed. Gumbel, in describing a mixture of alkoxyates formed from one alcohol in linear form and one alcohol in branched form does not describe or suggest the alcohol ratio of, for example, present Claim 1. Bahrman does not remedy the deficiency of Gumbel. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

The provisional double patenting rejections of Claims 1-14 and 18-20 over claims in application numbers 10/575,760, 10/511,445, and 10/527,959 have been addressed by filing terminal disclaimers.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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